

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 1, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Anthony Ventura, a former United States Border Patrol Agent in the El Centro Sector, was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey T. Miller to serve 24 months in custody and 5 years of supervised release based upon his guilty plea to an Information charging him with one count of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). Judge Miller also ordered that Ventura register as a sex offender.

According to court records, Ventura was found to have possessed at least two sexually explicit images of a minor girl on his computer after law enforcement searched his house on February 1, 2007. Law enforcement agents were alerted to Ventura after he was found to have been chatting online with a 13-year-old minor using sexually explicit language and asking her to send him naked pictures of herself.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims of the exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07cr1429-JM

ANTHONY VENTURA

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Imperial Police Department

California Department of Justice

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General